

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."

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NEW YORK, AUGUST, 1849.

FATAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE PRESENT MODES OF PRACTICE.

Continued from page 33.

Some further remarkable circumstances connected with the retention of drugs in the human system, are mentioned by Mr. Beamish, in a narrative of a visit to Grafenberg. "The injury inflicted on the human constitution," says that gentleman "by the administration of drugs is still scarcely comprehended. A remarkable case, which may throw some light on the subject, was stated to me by eye-witnesses:—a gentleman nearly sixty years old, who had, twelve years before, severely sprained his knee-joint, for which two ointments had been rubbed in, the one blue, the other pink, placed himself under the water-cure. The functions of the knee were pretty well restored. After five months' water treatment the pain in his limb returned with considerable violence; to alleviate his suffer-

ings, umschlag, or covered wet bandages were applied, when, behold! they quickly became impregnated, first with the blue, then with the pink deposit, after which the pain left him. Pink deposits I have seen on the linen of more than one individual. I possess seven samples of linen which had been applied to crisis, impregnated with deposits of black, black and yellow, light yellow, and bright sulphur yellow. The black was preceded by a blue which was, unfortunately, thrown away. The blue and black are declared by Pressnitz to proceed from mercury; the yellow from sulphur. The gentleman from whom I obtained them assured me that the mercury had been taken about twenty-eight years before, and the sulphur at two different periods of ten and twenty years respectively; and he added, 'Since I took the mercury, I have never enjoyed health.'

With regard also to the retention of medicinal agents in the alimentary canal, some curious facts are upon record. It is remarked by Dr. Elliotson, "When a person has taken a great quantity of chalk-mixture, and even magnesia, concretions have sometimes been formed. In the Museum at St. Thomas's Hospital, there is a preparation where the intestines of a child are completely blocked up with magnesia. It has the appearance of hard mortar, regularly cemented. The same effect will sometimes take place with the sesquioxide of iron. Dr. Barlow of Bath mentions a case where pills of sulphate of iron were discharged nine months after they had been taken."

What has now been stated will render it evident, that from a resort to medical aid one of the three following circumstances will in a majority of cases take place; namely, a complete or partial cure, with the drawback of some after-suffering from the remedies employed;—a failure of the remedies, so as to

leave the disease untouched, with the addition, at the same time, of evil consequences from the natural action of those remedies;—or, finally, such a disturbance of the system and weakening of the vital power as shall rapidly accelerate a fatal termination. Under the most favourable conditions, therefore, we have no promise of deriving a simple and unquestionable benefit. In the best case we can look but for an exchange of ills, however much in some instances that exchange may be in our favour; while under the two last suppositions the prospect is one of little else than unmitigated injury.

At the same time it is to be feared an inquiry as to which of these results may most frequently be looked for, will not meet with any consolatory reply. On this point an examination of the contradictory statements quoted in the preceding chapter will throw some light; and the acknowledged "incurability" of a large number of diseases (among which are many of the most common), consumption—indigestion—hydrocephalus—cancer—hydrophobia—dropsy, &c., &c., furnishes sad experience in the same direction.

The very rules, however, on which the present practice is professedly based, would in themselves give sufficient testimony that uncertainty must at all times be its inherent characteristic.

When a physician observes for the first time the symptoms of his patient, his direct object is to form a clear idea of the organ or organs implicated in the disease, and next, to ascertain if the disease be of a passive or of an inflammatory kind. This accomplished, he has, in a majority of instances, all that he requires as a groundwork for action. If inflammation be present, then a lowering treatment is indicated; and, in the opposite case, tonics and stimulants, together, in all cases, with a *trial* of such medicines as have been found to possess a power of action over the organs supposed to be affected.

Now if in each case, the precise organ or organs affected could be confidently ascertained—if the nature of the affection, whether inflammatory or otherwise, could with like confidence be arrived at,—and if, after proceeding thus far, an equal certainty could be felt, that the medicines administered would produce the action for which they are given, there would be reason to hope for a satisfactory result. But, unfortunately, there is no sure method of attaining any one of these ob-

jects; and as correctness, not merely in one but in all three of them together, is necessary to a cure, an unusual combination of intelligence is required before a favourable treatment can be looked for.

Of the various symptoms of disease there are a vast number common to affections of totally different organs; and there are others, as in the instance of diabetes, a disease which some declare to be situated in the kidneys, and others in the stomach, of which pathological research has not yet fixed the primary seat; so that, although from long practice and acute perceptive powers, some practitioners may at times be enabled to form a singularly accurate estimate of the real situation of the mischief, such accuracy is by no means common; a fact, which the experience of those who, while suffering under long-standing maladies, have consulted many different physicians will generally testify. With regard to the presence or absence of inflammation, equal uncertainty has been found to prevail. The light in such an inquiry is often derived chiefly from pathological experience, the result of observations made at post mortem examinations of organs in various stages of disease, such observations forming in each case the basis of a *theory* of the causes of the destruction which had been going on, and of the mode in which, when symptoms are again presented such as those which had been manifested by the deceased persons, its progress should be resisted.

But although the facts which have been accumulated in this direction by the unwearied research of medical philosophers are surprisingly numerous, they have added little to the certainty of medicine, since the theories based upon them have in almost every case embraced the most opposite views, and have consequently been the cause of incessant warfare, characterized by the bitterness peculiar to disputes in which neither party feel it possible to demonstrate their position. The contests between physicians, whether certain diseases are inflammatory diseases or otherwise, have been endless (the mode of treatment indicated in the one case being diametrically contrary to that indicated in the other; so that at all events, the patients of one of the contending parties must suffer not only from the absence of proper treatment, but from the infliction of its reverse), and every new observation in pathology seems only to be the signal for new contentions equally furious and

resultless. Even, however, where practitioners are generally agreed upon the nature of the indication, perplexities appear to be in no way diminished, and evidence is constantly presented that this unanimity is no safe-guard against error. So all-pervading, in fact, are the doubts besetting this point, that practitioners evidently do not feel it expedient to bind themselves upon all occasions to act in conformity with rule. "In consequence of partial success," says Dr. Craigie, "the use of mercury has been indiscriminately transferred to every form of dysentery; but if we reason from the pathological process in which the disease consists in our choice of remedial measures, *mercury will be the last to which we should have recourse.*"

Upon the question whether (supposing the seat of the disease to be actually ascertained, together with a knowledge of existing indications) the practitioner possesses the power of selecting medicines that shall accomplish the indications aimed at, difficulties are presented still greater than those which have just been considered. So little is known of the action of medicines, that they very frequently produce a directly contrary result to that which is expected; and medical books will be found to contain expressions of surprise at the unlooked-for phenomena constantly arising.

Thus it will be seen, that in medical treatment according to the recognized rules, there are three preliminaries necessary to insure success; that the accomplishment of one of these is of no advantage without the accomplishment of the others, and that they each alike depend upon the practitioner being fortunate enough to form a correct theory in the absence of positive data. There must, first, be a correct theory as to the organ diseased;—then a correct theory regarding the mode of progress of that disease;—and, finally, a correct theory regarding the action to be produced by the medicine administered: and upon the chance of his achieving all these is to depend the benefit or injury he may cause.—Upon the probability of correctness in a combination of theories, the practitioner, experienced or inexperienced, as the case may be, (and the history of science as regards theoretical views, whether from the learned or unlearned, points to little else than error) is to administer agents, some of which, in the proportion of less than a grain have been known to destroy life,—and these, not to the healthy, not to those whose vital energies may quickly

repair any accidental mischief, but to those whose powers are enfeebled, whose life may depend on the slightest casualty, and whom it is considered so necessary to guard from every disturbing cause, that we control in their presence even our slightest words, lest one breath of despondency or impatience on our part, or the mere excitement of some trivial news, should extinguish the feeble flame we are struggling to preserve. When we recognize these things, and read afterwards that "upon one occasion seven persons were destroyed in an hospital in Paris by a particular medicine (hydrocyanic acid) prescribed according to the usual rules," instead of being surprised at such a statement, we feel convinced, that if the daily aggregate of fatal results from medical treatment could be known, an incident of this kind would form comparatively an unimportant item.

And it must be remembered that it is not to the dangers of medicines alone that patients under these circumstances are subjected, but oftentimes to the shocks of torturing applications—that it is by the debilitated invalid, and not by the healthy man, that scarifications, blisters, moxas, setons, and incisions must be borne, upon the chance of the theoretical views of the practitioner proving correct or otherwise. "A lady, the wife of a physician," says Sir George Lefevre in his *Apology for the Nerves*, "lost all power of motion in consequence of a concussion of the spine; blisters, setons, frictions with tartarized antimony; and finally, the excruciating tortures of seven moxas burnt upon the sacrum at different periods, were all resorted to without effect." This lady left off medical treatment and resolved on trying magnetism. A cure was immediately effected, which the *Medico-Chirurgical Review* is disposed to attribute entirely to her escape from her professional attendants.

(To be Continued.)

THE REPETITION OF THE MEDICINAL DOSES.

BY DR. GRESSELICH.

Hahnemann thus expressed himself respecting the repetition of the medicinal doses in his "healing art of experience." "It is to be regulated according to the duration of effect of each remedy." The improvement consequent upon the positive—homœopathic effect of a remedy, he says, is perceptible even after the duration of the effect of the

medicine; a repetition of the dose would then remove the remaining symptoms; if a second dose should be administered, even several hours after the end of the duration of effect, the improvement would not be interrupted; the healing object can be frustrated by too early a repetition, because if a new dose is added before the termination of the duration of the effect, the effect can by this addition be excessively increased, and consequently become injurious. He says further, if the disease has been ameliorated in nearly its whole extent, then it is *certain*, almost without an exception, that the curative beneficial remedy has been the best adapted remedy; if, for instance, in chronic disease, though no perceptible improvement appeared, yet no new symptom of consequence set in, then it is but *probable*, that the given remedy was the best adapted one. In both these cases, we can continue, if necessary, with a second, third, etc., doses, always observing the result. In relation to the *duration* of the effect of the remedies, Hahnemann had made several remarks, many years previous, in his "experiment regarding a new principle;" the "direct" effect of *Hyoscyamus* scarcely continues twelve hours; that of *Stramonium* in large doses about twenty-four, in small doses only three hours; and so of *Tobacco*, etc.

In the first edition of the Organon, (page 164, ff.) Hahnemann gave the simple rule, not to repeat the dose as long as an improvement was visible, even if it was but small, every new dose disturbing the "progress of improvement." This rule was the more important, as we have yet no knowledge, from scarcely any remedy, of the more definite limits of the duration of effect. The effect of some terminates in twenty-four hours, (this was, however, very rare, and the shortest duration of effect of any remedy with which he was acquainted;) some require days, and even weeks, for the completion of their effect; the improvement remained perceptible also after the completed duration of effect of the remedy; the repetition of a remedy having been beneficial, only makes the evil worse, if the improvement in all points does not begin to stand still, for by it a medicinal disease is added to the natural one; the ameliorated sickness shows a changed group of symptoms; the previous remedy in a new dose is therefore not adapted.

In general, Hahnemann recommends the administration of the same remedy (where the repetition is indicated) in increasingly smaller doses, so that the patient never receives the same dose.

According to Hahnemann, the time for the repetition of the remedy is when some slight traces of one or the other original symptoms of the former disease are observed to re-appear. If, however, the patient require a like large, or even larger dose of the homœopathic remedy, which always has benefited him, to prevent a relapse, this was a sure sign of the continuance of the producing cause of the disease, of an impediment in the regimen of

living, or of certain influences surrounding the patient.

The main point in the administration of medicine is, not to give a new dose until after the completed duration of effect of the previous dose.

Hahnemann declares this to be the more important, as we cannot determine with certainty the *exact* limits of the effect of any remedy in large doses, not even in the healthy body, still less in small doses in the different diseases, and in the so widely differing individualities of patients. A dose completes its effect in the most acute diseases within a few hours. The same remedy, in the same dose, however, requires, in chronic diseases, several weeks for the completion of its effect.

Hahnemann repeats in general what was said above, and recognizes in the moment of the cessation of improvement, the extreme point of the duration of effect of the dose.

The above-mentioned rules are to be observed, with the following additions. A very minute dose of the medicine indicated completes its effect occasionally in forty, fifty, or one hundred days. This is, however, of rare occurrence. It is important to abridge the cure, if possible, to half, quarter, or even to a shorter period; and this can, under the observance of three conditions, be accomplished, viz.: 1. A proper selection of the remedy. 2. The most minute dose of the remedy, whereby the vital power is excited in the least degree, and consequently properly changed. 3. A repetition at proper intervals. In this manner, the dose may be repeated at intervals of seven, eight, ten, twelve, or fourteen days, or even oftener, with incredible success frequently; and, in the most acute diseases, even every five minutes.

Hahnemann refers hereby to his experience, and amends his former statement, adding, that it was not sufficient merely to await the termination of the effect of the remedy, except in some slight cases, in small children, and in very delicate irritable adults.

The increase of a medicinal dose once given was not recommended by Hahnemann, but rather its repetition; he gave, for instance in chronic diseases, *Sulphur*, 1-30, at intervals of seven days, and longer, but rarely at shorter intervals.

Hahnemann recommended, as early as in 1832, the repetition as a *great improvement*.

The rule given five years previous to this, to await, in chronic affections, "the termination of effect" of each dose of an antipsoric remedy, thirty, forty, fifty, etc., days, is, by this admission of a necessary repetition, abolished: "If we do not allow the antipsoric remedies, if ever as well adapted, their full length of time—that is, until they cease to produce any further effect—then was no cure possible." To fill up the time, Hahnemann gave powders of pure *Sugar of Milk*, passing in the homœopathic practice under the name of "blind powders."

The above given rule, to repeat the same remedy in the same dose after seven, nine, or

more days, was retracted again some time after by Hahnemann.

It does not agree very well with "our principle of life, for a patient to take, even twice in succession, the same unchanged dose of a remedy, much less several times in succession; the good effected by the first dose would be counteracted by repetition, and new symptoms would appear. From this, according to Hahnemann, proceed the many contradictions of the homœopathist in relation to the repetition of the doses. In order to avoid those embarrassments, Hahnemann comes back again, by a round about way, and, to all appearance, without having an idea that he said the same thing in the first edition of the Organon, to his former proposition, apparently forgotten by himself and his disciples, viz; that the succeeding doses should always be smaller, or, as he now styles it, in a different degree of dynamisation.

The repetition of one and the same remedy is indispensable; it can be given in a different degree of dynamisation, an incredible number of times in succession. Hahnemann's theory of potentisation occupies here, of course, the foreground; "the degree of dynamisation" was nearly changed, by shaking the phial strongly five or six times before each administration.

We see also, that Hahnemann did not acknowledge the principle of repetition of the medicinal dose during his whole life; that he once was against every repetition until he had to admit, that the non-repetition was the exception, and only successful in small children and sensitive patients.

It is almost impossible, to relate here, all that has been said in relation to this subject: I must therefore confine myself to a short sketch. In general, it may be said regarding the repetition, that those physicians approved of this technicism, who were in favor of a scale of degrees in the magnitude of the dose. Many years ago, however, a singular event occurred. Hahnemann's retraction of the non-repetition was contested by one of his most zealous disciples. It should by all means remain as established that the repetition does not agree with the vital principle. It was also evident, that there are men amongst the Homœopathists, who were more Hahnemannian than Hahnemann himself.

Aegidi expressed himself in favor of repetition, at a time, when it was not so much practised.—First of all, he lays down, in relation to chronic diseases, the following propositions: After the lapse of eight days, when the proper remedy has been given, the disease either does or does not change. In the first place it was improvement or deterioration, or alteration of the complex of the symptoms. At one time when improvement had taken place we were to wait and watch. If the improvement stood still, the same remedy was naturally indicated, and it was to be given as often as it proved efficient. This would be generally from 7-7, occasionally from 4-4 days, or even every other day. In case of deterioration, we were either to wait, or give the antidote, which mostly consisted in the

repetition of the dose; melioration would follow upon it. If it stands still, either to repeat several times the remedy, yet in progressively smaller doses and higher potencies, or to give another remedy. M. Hahnemann deviates respecting the administration of smaller doses; he advises to give, should the 30th dilution have been taken, the 24th. If on administering the adopted remedy, no improvement of an evil takes place, then to give the proper remedy more or less frequently, according to the degree of susceptibility of the patient, until either a homœopathic aggravation—with consequent melioration—or medicinal symptoms set in—also with consequent melioration—or an indication for other remedies appears.

Subsequent to this Aegidi recommended to give not only stronger doses, but even to repeat the remedies more frequently, for by continued attacks, a reaction would be brought about sufficiently powerful to effect a cure—a result seldom produced by a single dose.

Still later Aegidi pronounced the repetition in some cases injudicious, in others, it was the only way by which the cure could be accomplished; the individual case in question, however, was to decide. By a circumspect delay much might be gained, which would be lost by hurried movements. Trinks is also of like opinion, as he warns against a too hasty repetition.

P. Wolf had already in the Archiv. Vol. 9 No. 1, intimated that he was in favor of repetition under appropriate circumstances; he made, however, nearly the same allowances as did Aegidi, and endeavored to ascertain definite rules. Wolf asserts that numerous experiments prove that the precept of the school, not to repeat the remedy, even if the circumstances do require it, must be abandoned; he adds, furthermore, that his long experience is decidedly against a too hasty repetition.

The efficiency of the mineral waters, the results of the mercurial ointment cure in old syphilitic cases, which in spite of the primary effects of mercury (retrograde), the success of the use of simple juices, and infusions of plants, the cures by the continued use of the homœopathic remedy in large allopathic doses—*nux vom.* in paralysis—all are intimations to Wolf of the propriety of the repetition of the dose; he admits, however, that there are no definite rules, since we have no knowledge of the remedies suitable for repetition, the forms of diseases with their crises; at what intervals, and at what stage in individual cases the dose is to be repeated.

He distinguishes three principal categories; 1. Repetition in the smallest doses, in very quick or slower succession, until operation is to be expected, or has shown itself in primary effects. 2. Repetition in continual succession and at proportionally shorter intervals, until a quite perceptible improvement with evident or unperceivable operation of the individual doses. 3. Repetition in longer intervals, after a dose of the specific remedy had effected an improvement, which however did not

progress. Wolf named a considerable number of remedies, where he found repetition beneficial.

To be Continued.

SUGGESTIONS TO PROMOTE THOROUGH INSTRUCTION IN HOMŒOPATHIA.

The demand for physicians of the homœopathic school, is evidence of the diminishing confidence of the people in allopathy. We have been inclined to publish the letters we have received, urging us to recommend competent practitioners of homœopathy to different places; but not having been authorised to do so, and some of them express rather severe censures on allopathic physicians we have hitherto declined a compliance with our inclination in this respect. We are not unfrequently perplexed, by applications of junior members of the profession, who request of us written recommendations of their competency for homœopathic practice. Our embarrassment arises from the clearest evidence of incompetency—not from a want of talents, or morality, or gentility, or education; but from the fact, that they have but a limited knowledge of our system of medicine; they are full to the brim of allopathic learning; but they have never reached the standing of a *sophomore*, in homœopathy. Of late we have not hesitated to say to such, although at the risk of giving offence: "You have not yet learnt, that you know nothing of a true healing art." Our young men should know, that to enter upon homœopathic practice, immediately after graduation from an allopathic college, is not the best method for their own interests or the interest of medical science and art.

A young physician should enter the office of some acknowledged pure homœopathic practitioner, and remain at least for one year, and industriously study and practice the system of Hahnemann, and secure the certificate of his preceptor, of his qualification for the practice. In the present state of things, this would be of more value than the Diploma of an allopathic college. Few physicians would so far compromise their integrity, as to certify to the medical qualifications of any one, in the absence of real merit; collectively this may be done, as is well understood by the community.

The sole duty of the physician is to cure the sick; and as a general rule, this cannot be so well accomplished, as by means, for a time, of the instruction of those of experience in that duty. It is now admitted on all hands, that what is termed clinical instruction, is essential to constitute a physician; and this cannot be secured so well, as in the office of an acknowledged successful homœopathic practitioner.

The period is approaching when the present mode of medical instruction will receive a critical examination; and a reform in this matter is already called for by both schools of medicine. Homœopaths have it in their power, to effect all needed changes in the method of teaching medicine and surgery, and they should at once avail themselves of the opportune moment. If our school understood itself as it should, there would be no exciting abhorrence at the idea of exclusiveness. Homœopathy has fixed principles, which cannot be made to bend to suit any one; therefore in its nature it cannot amalgamate with allopathy; all attempts at such an object, may in some degree improve the latter, but will certainly defile the former. We have heretofore advocated, and shall continue to do so, that the two schools should remain, as they really are, antagonistic. To teach the system of Hahnemann after the manner of the colleges, cannot be successful. Some other mode must be adopted. Under existing circumstances private teaching appears the most appropriate. We merely throw out these suggestions, and at a future time we may elaborate them. Public opinion to our mind is of importance in the healing art; however, allopaths may affect to disprize it; but homœopaths do not lower their dignity by a due respect for it. Public opinion is the judgment of the many, which is slow in its formation, but in the end is generally correct. Public opinion is gradually but certainly forming against allopathy and all that pertains to it: and in proportion as it sets in that direction, it favors homœopathy. Therefore the public is nearly ready to favor any change founded in wisdom, which shall look towards the production of accomplished physicians. To secure this laudable object, is a most important duty of homœopathic physicians. Therefore provision must be made to instruct young men in medicine in a way that shall command the confidence of the community.

This can never be secured by any degree of annexation with allopathic colleges. We are aware that this opinion differs from some of our colleagues, but if it does, it is no reason why we should withhold our honest sentiments on so important a subject. This matter has not been much discussed, but it soon will be, and the sooner the better, for the interests of homœopathy.

For the American Journal of Homœopathy.

HOMŒOPATHIA.

It is surprising that a subject of such importance as that of medical treatment, should receive so little attention; when so much happiness depends upon the enjoyment of health—that we should not be willing to devote a little time to investigate the different modes of practice, and compare their results.

We often hear the remark that "Homœopathia is a humbug:" not because the asserter understands its principles in the least; but merely because he does not believe in the efficacy of such minute doses; and he will at the same time affirm, that the medicines are very powerful: very consistent certainly! It is very difficult to realize why such infinitesimal doses possess such power; but we know there are many substances, a small quantity of which, externally applied, will produce death: and there are those also that are so minute as to be quite inappreciable to the senses, and which will yet, very powerfully, affect the human frame. It is a very rational inference to draw, that medicine homœopathically prepared, may receive some new properties, which may render it more potent; also a diseased organ is affected by a much smaller quantity of medicine than a healthy one. However it is not a mere theory, but a science governed by laws, ascertained and proved by experiments.

It would be well for people generally, to possess a sufficient knowledge of homœopathia, to be able to distinguish between true homœopathic and mongrels who have done much injury to the cause of homœopathia. They possess but a limited knowledge of any system, and when one fails are obliged to resort to the other. These are often considered genuine homœopathic practitioners; because their misled patients know no better themselves. They will tell you that "Dr. — never gives a cathartic except in certain

cases;" for example to clear the system of allopahia, so that homœopathic remedies will have the desired effect. You will often hear the patients themselves say, they would much rather have a physician who understands both modes of practice, so that if one fails, they can resort to the other: and also, that "they would not dare to trust to homœopathia in any extreme case." It is not plain to be seen how any "intelligent physician can conscientiously adopt both methods of practice, as the systems are so entirely dissimilar. If homœopathia is not adequate to cure all curable diseases, let us have allopahia in its purity.

It is often asserted that homœopathia owes much of her success to a strict attention to the laws of regimen. This certainly should occupy a conspicuous place in any system of cure. Homœopathic practitioners proscribe what is unwholesome, at all times, and substances that have a medicinal effect. What allopathic physician, would undertake to cure a case of Dyspepsia, if his patient persisted in an unwholesome course of diet?

Faith and imagination, are often said to be powerful auxiliaries; but this could only be truly said of adults: whereas homœopathia has proved quite as efficient, when applied to children whose "faith and imagination" were not at all developed, and has gained some of her most brilliant triumphs; in cases where the patient was utterly faithless; having exhausted the arts of all other schools in vain; and called on this new science with a desperate hope, "that "it might do good, and could do no harm." One would suppose that its superiority over allopahia in the administration of the medicines, particularly when applied to children, would be a sufficient recommendation to induce one to examine the subject. It is certainly much easier, and more humane, to place a little powder on the tongue of a child; than to force some nauseous drug down the little sufferers throat; and to blister and bleed children, is too barbarous. Habit though is second nature, and it is difficult to renounce old prejudices. It will take a long time for people who have been accustomed to the use of cathartics, emetics, &c.; to become satisfied with the mildness of homœopathia. They want medicine that "will operate" and cannot believe that inflammation can be subdued without depleting the system. When the healthy action of the system is disturbed by any cause, its natural tendency is to return

to its normal condition; but this it may not be able to effect; or if able, it may be through a tedious and painful process. Homœopathia watches these efforts, as indicated by the symptoms; and in accordance with her great and beneficent ruling principle; kindly lends her aid to nature; rendering that desired result, certain, easy and quickly attained, which otherwise might never have been reached. This is more rational, than to seek to cure, by exciting some violent action either in the diseased organ or in some neighboring part.

Homœopathia has done much service to allopathia, in reducing the quantity of medicine administered, and modifying the system in many respects. There is one thing certain that no real homœopath, has ever retrograded so far as to resume allopathia.

The world is advancing in knowledge, and the people are daily imbibing the truths of homœopathia; and we trust the time is not far distant, when the great law "*Similia similibus curantur*" will be universally recognised, as the only sufficient guide, in all efforts to heal the sick.

E. S. P.

New York City, July 24th, 1849.

THE HOMŒOPATHIC SCHOOL SHOULD NOT AMALGAMATE WITH THE ALLOPATHIC.

We have received a printed circular addressed "To the Homœopathic Physicians of the U. S.;" signed by five physicians, and dated Chardon, O., July 1st, 1849.

It appears that twenty-three homœopathic physicians of Northern Ohio, assembled in convention at Cleveland, June 26th, 1849, "for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of accepting and establishing a professorship of the principles and practice of homœopathy in the Eclectic Medical College in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio. Storm Rosa, M. D., was recommended to the authorities of the Eclectic Medical Institute, for said professorship.

The Circular is intended, we should judge, to meet objections which were anticipated to the proposed arrangement; but in our humble opinion it will fail of its object; our colleagues, with all due respect we utter it, do not seem to be aware of the sort of company they propose to embrace in their arms of liberality. With all frankness, and the kindest

feelings, we do not hesitate to declare, that we cannot co-operate with our friends in that matter. We happen to know the paternity of that Institute; and we have never had much respect for it. There may be, as the circular states, among the professors, "men of sound hearts, clear heads, and minds fearless in the investigation of truth, and second to no faculty in the country in point of talent, capability or untiring industry," all of which, in our mind amounts to but little, if they, as we have reason to believe, possess the views and feelings of their leader. More than thirty years ago, we became acquainted with a man in this city, who represented himself a Doctor, although uneducated in the ordinary way. His sole pretensions at that time were, to cure cancers and other sores with ointments, and to find fault with educated physicians. A few years afterwards, this man, it was said, procured a medical license, from a county society of this state, and set himself up for a reformer in medicine; and has persevered in his object with uncommon zeal; and certainly he has made some noise in the world. He being always religiously inclined, yet could never find any sect suited to his views and feelings on that subject, but finally adopted the motto, and applied it to himself, that "a prophet is not without honor, save in his own country;" and became a remarkable example of this, both in religion and in medicine. 1st. He set his hand against every man in religion, and published a paper to make known his views, but failed to make converts, and his paper ceased to exist. 2nd. He undertook a reform in medicine, and published a very large and confused work, for that purpose, which kings and princes have honored, but nobody else that we know of. This man, utterly incompetent for the work he undertook, however sincere he may have been, has managed to connect with him in some way, a few men of more ability than himself, and while they are laboring with "untiring industry" as the circular says, he claims the whole credit of driving an entering wedge into the ranks of the medical profession and disturbing its harmony. And now when he sees the popularity of homœopathia, the plan is projected to connect his interests in some way with it, so as ultimately, to claim to be the ruling spirit in the reform of the healing art in America, which the circular before us, indirectly helps him to do. The gentlemen, whose names are appended to the

circular under notice, err greatly, when they ascribe to this man any agency whatever in liberalizing "public sentiment."

We have not the time, nor the inclination to say all we could, on this subject. We regret to be compelled to differ from any of our brethren, but when we honestly believe the interests of homœopathia, are to be compromised by impolitic associations, we shall not hesitate to express our dissent in a suitable spirit and manner. The Circular itself is not in good taste, exceedingly weak in its arguments, very ordinary in its composition, and exhibits more of the spirit of a party, than that calm dignity which usually arises from a consciousness of the possession of the truth.

Our colleagues in Northern Ohio, have a commendable zeal, which should tell to the promotion of the spread of homœopathia, but we fear, if they should go on, and connect themselves with the Eclectic Institute, they are destined to be disappointed, and our beautiful system retarded in its progress. We have not the slightest confidence, in the friendly feeling of an "eclectic" for homœopathia; although there may be the kindest feelings, and the most gentlemanly deportment towards persons. Eclecticism is allopathy, and nothing else. Now, does any well informed mind believe it possible for allopaths to willingly aid in the promulgation of homœopathia? All experience answers in the negative. That class of eclectics embraced in the Cincinnati institute, is a party of the allopathic school, who by their violent and denunciatory measures have been separated from the main body, and it is now seeking to draw homœopathia into its muddy waters, and thereby defile her beautiful garments so that the public mind will not perceive her fair proportions.

The number of homœopaths in this country is as a hundred to one of that class of eclectics. In this city, the Father of them, has been laboring for more than twenty-five years, and so far as we know, he has made but one convert, and he ranks, an advertising physician.

We do not deny the right of our friends in Northern Ohio, to take the step they have in the matter under notice; but they should not undertake to unite a thousand or more homœopathic practitioners in a sort of marriage contract to such a family without their consent.

Our sentiment is, let homœopaths, resemble their system, not fear boldly to declare to the world that they are exclusive; and cannot from the nature of their faith be anything else. Let us work with our own means, and in our own peculiar way. Let as many come to us as may, and let us welcome them with open arms; but let us keep on our own ground, and cultivate it, in imitation of no existing system. If a college is needed, let us secure one; but not throw ourselves headlong into any existing institution. The medical colleges of the present day, are not worthy of the name; they are generally mere private establishments. The allopathic school itself is rapidly approaching an acknowledgment of this fact. So far as we have been able to form an opinion, the Eclectic Medical Institute, is really the worst of all; and shall an esteemed homœopathist allow himself to be flattered by the offer of a professorship? We hope not.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

The custom of reporting the number of cases of Cholera, by the Board of Health, seems to us, to be not only useless, but of evil tendency.

The daily reports of cases, when compared with the City Inspector's, show for the week ending July 21st, as many deaths as cases. Everybody knows this is not true; yet every one is daily estimating the proportion of deaths, making the reports of the Board of Health the standard of the calculation. The result is truly alarming, and our citizens are thus kept in a state of excitement, inconsistent with health.

To procure the exact number of Cholera cases is exceedingly difficult, owing in some measure to the unreasonable diversity of views of physicians in regard to what symptoms characterize that disease. Until lately a class of symptoms were designated, *premonitory*; and all such cases, although now admitted to be genuine cholera in its first stage, have been passed by as unworthy the notice of the Board of Health. The second stage of the disease, under appropriate treatment, yields readily in most instances, rendering it, in the judgment of many physicians, unnecessary to disturb the public mind with them.

The last or dying stage of cholera, are mostly the only cases reported, hence the very

great mortality that appears in the reports of the Board of Health. There are other causes which need not be enumerated, that places it beyond the power of the public authorities to secure anything like accurate reports of the number of cases. The unwise proceedings of our Board of Health in this matter, has caused immense injury to the business of this city, and has alarmed the entire population, so that thousands resort to pernicious preventive means, which tend to the development of the disease.

The Cholera prevails throughout our country as did the Influenza a few years ago; and it is no more contagious or infectious, than was that malady; and if treated by those immutable principles which a large proportion of the profession, and many thousands of intelligent laymen are now familiar with; the mortality need not alarm entire communities as it now does.

The formal notice taken of cholera, by the public authorities, the silly proclamations of medical councils, often erroneous and indefinite, are well adapted to induce mental excitement, and thereby increase the cases of the disease and the bills of mortality.

The people of this city, under the sanction of authority have been graciously advised "to be careful," of what they eat; and of themselves in their deportment generally. Yet we are not advised, of what this carefulness which the "Medical Council" so gravely and diplomatically puts forth, consists in. True, they tell the people to keep calm, but they cannot with the daily reports of the Board of Health before them. Must not touch vegetables and fruits; although thousands eat them daily, and experience no inconvenience from their use, as ordinary articles of diet. Must not eat solid food; yet there is no evidence that this is injurious to those who have appetite for it. Avoid cold bathing; but thousands indulge in it daily, and no evil comes of it.

It is not unreasonable that a sudden change in diet aids very much an attack of cholera. We may, perhaps, intrude our own experience, upon our readers, on this subject. We have not changed our mode of living; but followed the promptings of our appetite, and such has been the happy effect, that we are not likely to be influenced by the absurd theories in cholera dietetics, which have emanated from the allopathic and homœopathic schools; for the latter in this matter, has

leaned towards the nonsense of the former.

The safest course, with due respect for the opinion of our colleagues, is to leave each person to manage the needed supply of his stomach in his own way; and as eating is an operation which most of the people of this city, have had experience in; we think their practical knowledge, will be safer for them to follow, than the baseless theories of the faculty.

It seems to us most appropriate, and the best for us all, that deaths only should be reported, and through the usual channel—the City Inspector. But if the Board of Health must meddle with this department of our municipal arrangement, let them report only the number of deaths.

It may be objected to the above views, that unless the number of cases is ascertained, statistical accounts could not be made out; so as to show the relative number of deaths; and the result of the different modes of treatment of the Cholera. We may surprise some of our brethren, after the almost universal laudation bestowed on medical statistics, by the assertion, that these do not amount to much, either in the estimation of the profession or of the people. We have positive proof that they have not the slightest influence on our Board of Health, and its "Medical Council" for they have had the facts before them in statistical tables, that uniformly the homœopathic treatment loses less than nine in a hundred; and the allopathic treatment loses more than fifty in a hundred; yet the Board does not favor the former; but gives its sanction to the latter, although the glaring and alarming fact stares it in the face from every newspaper, that allopathy fails in most of her cases, in the present epidemic.

We do not blame the Board of Health, for their want of faith in the statistics of the homœopathic treatment of the Cholera; we cannot complain if, under the advice of their "medical council" they threw them aside altogether, which we presume they did. It is but just to the members of the "Council" for us to say, that none know better than they do, the reliance to be placed on statistics; as well as on detailed reports of the treatment of individual cases: their competency in this branch of medicine we do not doubt. The friends of homœopathy and her lay opponents do complain, and on just, and reasonable ground; that as a large number of regularly

educated physicians, of unimpeachable integrity, and well known in the community, declare, after years of daily experience in all diseases, that the homœopathic treatment of Cholera, is safer than any other known, that the Board of Health should reject such testimony, and not afford an opportunity in a Cholera Hospital to place beyond a doubt the pretensions of homœopathia in this regard; or expose thereby its inadequacy for such a work as curing the Cholera.

We leave this matter in the hands of the people, who will after awhile, understand how their life and health has been most shamefully disregarded by their servants—the Board of Health.

Mayville, Nov. 1848.

DR. S. R. KIRBY:—

Dear Sir:—A homœopathic physician enjoys peculiar advantages over those of the old school, in being ever able to give a reason for his doctrine and practice. Wherefore we propose on the present occasion to offer a reason or two for the principle of attenuated doses.

The people have a sort of vague idea of disease, and seem to consider it a kind of physical agent, and that it requires material means to remove it. And this is no wonder, since their teachers from time immemorial have been accustomed to express themselves in such a vague and uncouth manner. How often do we hear them talking about breaking up a cold, breaking up a fever, cleansing the stomach, removing morbid matter, impurities, &c. As if disease might be broken to pieces as a rock is broken, or expelled by physical force, as a military force would be expelled. Such ideas have nothing rational about them, nor even the shadow of science or truth. Disease is invisible, intangible, and so far as we know anything about it, possesses none of the qualities which belong to substance.

What then is disease? we answer, a subversive force, having the power to disturb the vital forces, and bring about morbid action. With a noiseless step it approaches, enters our dwellings without lifting a latch or drawing a bolt, takes possession of his victim, and no one heeds its presence, until it has arranged and fitted up its destructive elements; then nature hangs out her tokens of distress and

cries for relief. Such an element of disorganization as this cannot be broken up, or expelled by physical or material means. The means employed must be similar, or like in its nature, and adequate to the end. Can any one imagine what advantage we could gain by instituting physical force to compete successfully with a force which is essentially spiritual. We do not say disease is a spirit intelligent and capable of deliberation; but we have said, it was a *subversive force*, that might be dissipated by the proper means.

Now, by reference to my former communication, it appears that drugs cure disease, only by virtue of their power to create diseases, and that too in accordance with a great and fundamental law there exhibited. If then we administer the drug whose pathogenesis or disease creating power is as near as may be similar or like to the disease, we shall see the disease yield and give way according to one or the other of two principles, viz:

1. We say, no two diseases similar and like each other can exist in the same subject at the same time; consequently, if we can succeed by the use of a drug in creating a new and similar disease, the natural must let go and become a medicinal one; but a drug disease may be just as pernicious and just as permanent as any other; hence we see the necessity of bringing the medicinal substance into a condition typical or analogous to the subversive force, or as Hahnemann expresses it, a semi-vital or spiritual condition, so that the medicinal disease shall be as near as possible similar to the natural one, and the power which the organism naturally possesses of withstanding the encroachments of the subversive force, shall not be embarrassed. Then is the sufferer promptly and certainly relieved.

2. We say the symptoms which appear in any particular case of disease are merely the efforts of nature to throw off the subversive force and establish her normal condition; hence, if we administer the drug, which is capable of originating a similar set of symptoms, we add strength to the *vis natura*, and thus assist her to resume her accustomed vigor. But here again arises the same necessity as before, of having the medication in the just mentioned proper condition; otherwise an alarming aggravation of the symptoms may take place, and the disease rendered more permanent and disastrous instead of being

cured, while other parts and formations of the organism are made to suffer.

Now then it being admitted that the disease is not properly speaking a material assailant, the remedy in order to be equal to the disease and be able to follow it out through bone and muscle, must also be divested of its materiality. Because the remedy being a material force, and the disease an immaterial subversive force, the difference between them is sufficient to annul the homœopathic law, like cures like; but the process of attenuation brings the medication exactly into the condition required. When a given drug undergoes the attenuating process, until no human vision can detect the least possible particle of the original substances, and then is carried far, very far beyond this stage, and retains not only the primary disease creating power, but its remedial virtues are greatly enhanced; we say, the medication is no longer a physical agent; nor a material substance; but a dynamic or immaterial force, capable of entering directly into the very essence of disease, and getting up a set of symptoms in every respect similar to those of the primary subversive force. Hence the doctrine of attenuated doses becomes not only rational, but the only true system of practice.

Yours truly,

C. C. CROSSFIELD, M. D.

THE CHOLERA IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

Since our last number, the Cholera has progressed in the city, and hundreds have fallen victims to it. The daily and weekly papers have furnished our readers with the details of this malady as it has prevailed here: which, renders it unnecessary for us at this time, to report the number of cases; but when the epidemic passes away, we will give as accurate statistics as it is possible to do. The homœopathic physicians have had no organization, and have not acted in concert, in the daily reports of their cases; and our Board of Health have managed this branch of their duty, in such a loose-end sort of a way, we doubt if it will be possible to secure anything like an exact account of the homœopathic treatment of that disease during its present prevalence. However this may be, allopathy has lost the confidence of hundreds, which she can never regain. There has been

a uniformity in the mode of the treatment of the Cholera with practitioners of our school, and a satisfaction in the results, which go to show, that the true mode of controlling that disease is homœopathic.

THE SUPPRESSION OF URINE IN CHOLERA.

A writer in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, directs the attention of the profession to the fact that in genuine cholera, there is a "non-secretion of urine." That writer goes on to suggest the propriety of some remedy to remove this single symptom; by inference, he thinks such a remedy would cure the Cholera. This is the old, and erroneous mode of medical treatment, viz, that the theory of a disease, should indicate the cure. The art of medicine never made any progress by such a rule, and never can.—Hence it is, that all pathological investigations have not aided in the treatment of diseases; for the reason, a theory of cure is founded upon a theory of disease, while the truth is, the one should not be based upon the other. This is fundamental in Hahnemann's system.

We are surprised that so apparently able and experienced a physician, as the correspondent of the Boston Journal, should not have noticed, that in every, diarrhœa, there is a diminished quantity of urine, and usually it is in proportion to the violence of that disease. The Cholera diarrhœa is the most copious, and the urine is entirely suppressed. The same thing may be observed, in a less degree, in violent catharsis. Therefore we do not regard that symptom in Cholera as of much importance, for whenever the evacuations from the bowels cease, not by opium however, the secretion of urine will in a short period be resumed. This reminds us of another fact, which we think may be of some use to allopathic practitioners: if a blister plaster be applied to the abdomen, and a cathartic administered at the same time, they will not act together. If the blister plaster acts, the cathartic will not, and *vice versa*. The reason is plain enough, and yet this practice is pursued constantly by eminent men, and many a poor fellow has "suffered some" from a supposed constipation of the bowels, under such circumstances. But if our allopathic friends think us wrong in the view we have taken in regard to the suppression of urine, and that a remedy should be directed to the

kidneys, we will name Iodine as a remedy for that symptom, and they may try it in Cholera, it would not do as much harm as other drugs in use by them in that disease.

Asking Medical Advice.—Physicians who reside in cities are subject to a draft upon their time, and other impositions, to which those in the country are comparatively strangers. There are both men and women of intelligence who seem to consider that physicians are obliged, by the usages of society, to hear them narrate the minutest details of their sensations; what food and medicine they took under certain circumstances, and their opinions in relation to the whole matter; and then they expect the physician's views of the present condition of things. After obtaining in the fullest manner such advice as a discreet physician would give, they conclude it is best to be going, and moreover they express themselves as much obliged for the suggestions. They never intended to pay for the service rendered. Those who suffer most from this species of patronage, are the obliging, kind-hearted, sympathizing physicians, who can least afford to give away precious hours to such unworthy objects. The austere, unsocial, solitary practitioners, whose influence, like Montezuma's, depends on keeping people at a distance, and always at the freezing point, have no such liberties taken with them.

When the members of all medical associations, in towns and cities, have the independence to notify the whole public that they must invariably be paid on the spot for advice, and every visit, after the English custom, paid for daily at the bed-side of the patient, this inconvenience will be remedied, and few or no debts will be lost. A thousand annoyances and inconveniences, inseparably connected with the miserable system by which the practice of medicine is regulated in this country, might be obviated, and something more than a nominal income realized, were a revolution in this particular, brought about.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.*

It is to us great pleasure to agree in anything with a cotemporary of the allopathic school. In the above from the Boston Journal, Dr. Smith, the Editor "has hit the nail on the head." The evil of which he speaks is a serious one, and the sooner all physicians resolve on a reform in that matter the better. A patient of ours who is now sitting near us while we write, says "Doctor, I perceive you have charged me two dollars a visit, I think that rather high." "Your bill sir, has remained unpaid for two years," was our reply; "but to avoid any unpleasant feeling hereafter, you will have the goodness to hand me one dollar and fifty cents, or leave it for

me, whenever I visit your family professionally." He agreed to this arrangement at once. Now, although it is well known to those acquainted with us, that we have no great skill in money matters; yet we do not doubt that we shall visit that family more promptly, and with much more satisfaction than we have done for some time past.

We do not know any better way to reach this subject, than to relate what physicians feel, although they are not apt to express it, in words. Yesterday evening, at 9 o'clock, we found ourself in our office, weary of a day's hard labor. We looked over our list of sick to see if all had been attended to, and one had not been visited; this patient was convalescent, and a visit could have been dispensed with, although the patient would have been disappointed. Now, our humane feelings would not move us to ride nearly a mile to gratify the mind of that patient; nor would the danger of a charge of a want of punctuality move us; but the thought that we should receive our fee in cash, renewed our strength, and we actually walked the distance, discharged our duty, received the thanks of the patient and family, and a gold coin to comfort us on our way home. Frequently we are disturbed at night by strangers, to visit the sick; and we often hear the complaint that they had called on several physicians who refused to go, and as it regards ourself, we are never sick except at such times. Now, let it be understood that no physician will refuse to get up at night and attend a professional call, if a reasonable fee is handed to him. We are heartily tired of keeping books, a science we do not well understand, and we intend to abandon it, which we can very soon accomplish, by the aid of our brethren. For some time past we have had no large bills against any one, for we send them in almost as soon as our attendance ends, in a case of sickness; and no one who intends to pay, has found fault with us, on this account. Physicians have impressed the people with the idea, that they do not practice their profession for money, and even some professors have so stated in their lectures to students. Our own mind was so impressed with this, that to this day, we feel a repugnance to make out a bill for services, &c. We are in favor of abolishing all law, for the collection of bills for medical services. Cash fees to physicians would remove a thousand evils which now

exist; and a thousand advantages would accrue to all concerned. If a patient is not able to pay a full fee, let him pay according to his means, this would be satisfactory. The sick would be more promptly attended, and the mind of the physician would be more active in conducting the treatment; and a good feeling would be kept up by all parties towards one another. We hope the Boston Med. and Surg. Journal will not let this subject rest where he has left it.

ALLOPATHIC PHYSICIANS—THEIR CONDUCT.

The people begin to examine for themselves into the allopathic practice and the conduct of its practitioners. In a Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa., a patient, who was sick of Cholera, desired to be treated by D. Merit Drake, M. D., an eminent homœopath of that city. The authorities of the Hospital refused his reasonable request; and then his relations and friends proposed to remove him from the Hospital, but this also was peremptorily refused, and the man died. Public attention was drawn to the case, and a feeling of indignation began to show itself among the citizens; when through the influence of an allopathic physician, one of the daily papers of that city, editorially, charged the death of the patient to the interference of Dr. Drake, who replies to the charge under his own name pronouncing the whole relation of the case "*basely false*:" and introduces testimony to sustain himself in his statement of the matter. Soon afterwards there was a public meeting held for the purpose of making arrangements for establishing a hospital, for the homœopathic treatment of the Cholera; at which the following preamble and resolutions were adopted, viz:

Whereas, it is believed that the advantages of the Homœopathic System of medical practice, ought to be extended as widely as possible; especially by our efforts to the homeless and friendless, whom disease may prostrate in our midst; Therefore,

Resolved, 1st. That in the judgment of this meeting, we owe it to the cause of suffering humanity, to establish without delay, an Institution to be called the Pittsburgh and Alleghany Homœopathic Dispensary, to be located in this city, and to be open for the reception of persons standing in need of Hospital privileges, who are desirous of receiving homœopathic treatment.

2nd. That to carry out this humane purpose we now proceed to elect a Board of Directors consisting of one member from each ward of the two cities who shall take into their hands the management of this whole concern.

Resolved, That any person afflicted with the cholera, who desires to be treated homœopathically, should have that privilege, and that this meeting considers that any other course, which has been, or may be, pursued, is contrary to all justice, and meets with the unqualified disapprobation of this meeting.

Here follows the committee:

PITTSBURGH.

1st ward—D. McCandless.
2d " A. McClintock.
3d " Rev. Mr. Teasdale.
4th " John Shepherd.
5th " Thomas S. Blair.
6th " Daniel Armstrong.
7th " W. S. Courtney.
8th " James Lippincott.
9th " W. E. Bailey.

ALLEGHANY.

1st ward—Samuel Church.
2d " L. O. C. Nickling.
3d " John Erret.
4th " Samuel Robinson.

We have not been advised what the above committee have accomplished, but if the cholera prevails epidemically in Pittsburgh, we have no doubt a Homœopathic Cholera Hospital will be established.

A similar course should have been pursued in this city at the commencement of the present epidemic. A suitable call would have filled the largest room in our city of the friends of homœopathia. But these had confidence in the judgment, and impartiality of our Board of Health, forgetting that it was controlled by the advice of an allopathic "medical council" whose bitter opposition to homœopathia is notorious; and others besides that counsel, are permitted to sit in secret with the Sanatory Committee who are, of all others, the most unprincipled opponents of our system.

All this, however, will not finally be prejudicial to the interests of homœopathia, for the people are looking on, and discussing the subject themselves with a zeal that will develop soon, their confidence in the system of medicine which has its foundation in immutable principles.

We could not notice the doctrine of Rau in this Number, as promised.

HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT OF CHOLERA—ITS SUCCESS.

To the Editor of the Tribune ;—

The writer of the following letter is a regularly educated Physician of high standing. What he states can be relied on, for he is incapable of misrepresenting a matter of such importance. The people of this City, I think, will perceive soon that the controlling influence of Allopathic Medical Council, in our Board of Health, does not tend to save the lives of our citizens. If a hospital for the Homœopathic treatment of Cholera cannot be obtained from our authorities, let a public meeting be called and funds raised to establish one at once. I would volunteer my services professionally, and I presume others of the Homœopathic school would do the same, although at much inconvenience.

S. R. KIRBY, M. D.

July 27, 1849.

ST. LOUIS, July 18, 1849.

Dr. S. R. Kirby—*Dear Sir* ;—Your favor is just received. We have been passing through a trying ordeal of more than three months, with the Cholera in its worst form.—But amid the gloom, anguish and death which have enshrouded our city, homœopathy has shone forth, the only star in midnight darkness, and to those—with few exceptions, who have looked to it, the only safe guide through the darkness and the storm. Up to the 13th inst., three of us, (and the only three *Homœopaths* here) have treated 1,567 cases with a loss of only three per cent.

It is with great pain I announce to you the death of our German Homœopathic Physician two days since, after an illness of 4 hours, and before I could be found. He was the only German Physician we had and is a great loss. He was literally worn down. His practice was immense. Our German population numbers nearly 30,000.

We much need three or four men of learning and character. Can't you send us a German Physician immediately and several others of the right stamp as soon as possible. I have two Allopathic Physicians now studying with me who may be in the field in due time. I am almost, to use a western phrase, used up. I long for rest. Do write me occasionally ; It is a great comfort to hear from a fellow laborer in so glorious a cause.

Ever sincerely,

JOHN T. TEMPLE, M. D.

CHOLERA STATISTICS.

We lay before our readers all the facts which we have been enabled to collect, touching this scourge, in Cincinnati and our own city. Any comment would be superfluous.

From the Cincinnati papers we take the following report :—Cases of Cholera treated homœopathically, up to the 15th of May, 352 ; deaths, 3. The editor of one paper remarks :

"Three homœopathic physicians report their cases of Cholera, from 20th of April up to the 15th of May, to number one hundred and fifty-two, of which there has only been one death. Another homœopathic practitioner reports, for the last two weeks, eighty-eight cases of Cholera in his practice, and no death. Besides these, we learn that there are eight other homœopathic practitioners, who have been eminently successful. None of the above, we understand, have been reported to the Board of Health. The ratio of cures to cases treated in this city, by homœopathy, so far as we have learned, are about the same compared with those under allopathic treatment, as is generally found everywhere—that is to say, as ten to one in favor of the new system. The number of cases reported by allopathy, during the same time, was 393, of which number eighty-seven died.

In St. Louis we can only furnish the number of cases treated by three homœopathic physicians, which, up to the 27th of June, amounted to 537 cases ; of these 15 died.—*South-Western Homœopathic Journal.*

THE GREAT QUESTION ABOUT TO BE DECIDED.

The queries—Will Saltpetre explode, and Do Snakes hiss? have been thrown into the shade, or lost in a fog, in the excitement raised by the controversy as to the true answer to the question—"When doctors disagree, who shall decide?" The old school say his honor, the Mayor shall—the new school say the people shall. The trial will come off to-day ; and we'll venture a bet of a gill of butter-milk (we never go higher) that the old school will be defeated. Their defence will be something like the great little kettle case—first, that they returned the kettle sound ; second, that the kettle was cracked when they got it ; and third, that they never had the kettle. In the first place, the Board of Health has no authority to commence suits in the name of the city for alleged violations of ordinances ; second, the present Board is not a board, their time having expired nearly a year ago ; third, the City Solicitor had better attend to the business entrusted to his care by the special order of Council ; fourth, the Board of Health has no right to take the money of the poor and sick to pay a lawyer to fight their private battles ; fifth, they have no right to make a man's opinions on religion, politics or medicine, as a test as to his claims to the charity of the city.

Our readers will readily perceive that we have advanced the strongest objection last having followed the illustrious example of a certain eminent counsellor, who gave thirteen reasons why a witness should not be fined by the Court for non-attendance—the last of said thirteen reasons being, that the man had died some two weeks previously ! Well, well, we

live and learn every day, that doctors, as well as white men, are very uncertain. In the language and spirit of ancient chivalry, we exclaim, "God show the right!" or, in other words, let every one take care of his own toes, as the jackass said when he danced among the chickens.—*Cincinnati Daily Times*.

FASHION AND FOLLY OF MEDICAL MEN.

Great events always develop the prevailing features of character. A strong illustration of this truth is daily exhibited by the great display of talent, in theorizing about the causes of Cholera and its cure.

Such has been the mystery thrown around the medical profession for thousands of years, that none but the medical priesthood dared enter its sacred walls, or look into its cabalistic tomes, until the present century. Now, mind is bursting the shackles which has for so many ages bound it in ignorance, and men ask—Why this mystery? What is disease? What its cure? In the alarm and confusion caused by this bold innovation, the wily priesthood seek, by weaving a theoretic gauze of gaudy and diversified colors, to captivate the eye and divert the mind from the inquiry. In vain may these theorists refresh themselves at the fountain of humoral pathology, inflate themselves with Vacuous Ozone, stupify themselves with Carbonic Acid Gas, or waste their energies and their ink in fruitless efforts to deceive themselves and the public. The people say—Give us the cure of Cholera, and away with your theories about the cause! What do we care about the cause, if we have the cure! If there be a cause producing Cholera, there cannot be a thousand, differing in their character and properties, which result in a similar effect. Such an idea is unphilosophical—it is an absurdity.

To those of the profession who have thus wasted their time and their talent, we say—If half this time had been spent in studying the principles and practice of homœopathy, many a heart now cheerless, would have been rejoicing—many a family now peopling the city of the dead, would have been gathered around a family board, enjoying the blessings of this life—many a bleeding heart would have been spared the opening wound, and all would now have been speaking the praises, and blessing the name of the immortal Hahnemann.—*South-Western Homœopathic Review*.

HOMŒOPATHIC EMULSION.

Dr. Nusser proposes the employment of an emulsion as a vehicle for the administration of homœopathic remedies. This he prepares merely by dissolving the well-known globules in water. He has them prepared by a confectioner in the most accurate manner, with two parts of fine white sugar to one of fine starch powder. They must be very small, about 600 should weigh only one grain; during the

preparation of the globules the starch on their surface seems to be changed into a kind of gum. If about half a drachm of these be dissolved in one ounce of common spring water, the solution presents an agreeable white appearance, the rest of the starch being held suspended in the gum. The consistence of the emulsion may be increased or diminished by adding more or less of the globules. In order to preserve it from fermentation a drop or two of alcohol of 75 or 80 0-0 should be added to each ounce of water. The taste of the emulsion then resembles that of punch (*sic*). To medicate the emulsion a drop or a few globules of the remedy are added, and the whole well shaken.—*Allg. Ztg. für Hom.* No. 1.

An eminent physician of our school has reported to us, that he cured in a few days, a severe attack of *Pleurisy* in a lady 70 years of years of age, with *Pulsatilla*; and a relapse of it with *Lycopodium*. The particulars were not related.

We have received a communication from Dr. John L. Gage of Le Roy, N. Y. The Doctor is a zealous advocate of homœopathy. He has had a private written controversy with some allopathic physician, and has failed to convince his opponent. In this there is nothing remarkable, for others have undertaken the same work with a like success. Of late, we have not intruded a single word on an allopath on homœopathy, unless he evidences a sincere desire for information on that subject.

We do not agree with Dr. Gage on the propriety of publishing the correspondence which he has furnished us for that purpose, as he has omitted to state, that it is by the consent of his opponent, who most certainly is a party interested, and should be consulted in the matter. The propagation of our science does not require us to take any undue advantage of those who oppose us. These views we hope, will convince Dr. G. that we desire to deal fairly with him and all others, and that we cherish for him the kindest feelings, and fully appreciate his zeal in the cause of medical reform.

NOTICE.

The undersigned proposes to deliver a regular course of daily lectures on the practice of medicine, to commence on the 5th day of November next, and to end on the 1st of March following.

Tickets for the course, \$15.

A more extended notice of these lectures will appear in the next number of this Journal, and also in a circular.

S. R. KIRBY, M. D.

New York, July 26th, 1849.

Volumes 1, 2, and 3 of this Journal may be had at \$1 00 each of Mr. Rademacher, Philadelphia; Otis Clapp, Boston; and of the Editor, 762 Broadway.

Subscriptions for this Journal will be received as heretofore, by Otis Clapp, Boston, Mass., by J. F. Desilver, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Rademacher, Phila.